

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 06457 101755Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7497

S E C R E T BONN 06457

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON ERW

1. DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH VAN WELL ON APRIL 10 (SEPTEL), HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF FOLLOWING-UP ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF THE ERW. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO DEFINE IN CONCRETE TERMS WHAT WE NOW EXPECTED FROM THE SOVIETS, I.E., HOW DO WE DEFINE SOVIET RESTRAINT. HE THOUGHT NATO WOULD WELCOME OUR IDEAS ON THIS MATTER.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC POSTURE ON ERW IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION: SEEK A CALM, OBJECTIVE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE; STRESS THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE US AND THE ALLIANCE ON THIS AND SIMILAR SECURITY ISSUES; NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE OPTION FOR FUTURE PRODUCTION OF ERW; AND, IN PARTICULAR, STRESS ERW'S USEFULNESS AS AN ELEMENT OF DISARMAMENT TALKS.

3. OBSERVING THAT NEITHER THE US NOR THE FRG HAD ANY INTEREST IN MUTUAL RECRIMINATION, VAN WELL NOTED THAT SOME US PRESS COMMENTARIES HAD SINGLED OUT THE FRG FOR CRITICISM IN THE ERW CONTEXT. THESE ARTICLES,

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ALLEGING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS A RESULT OF BONN'S HESITANCY ON ERW, AND THAT THE FRG HAD ATTEMPTED TO HIDE BEHIND ITS SMALL EUROPEAN NEIGHBORS ON THIS ISSUE, WERE NOT HELPFUL. MOREOVER, IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THIS WAS BEING DEPICTED IN THE PRESS AS A US-GERMAN ISSUE WHILE, IN FACT, IT WAS AN ALLIANCE MATTER.

4. VAN WELL SAID THAT CDU/CSU OPPOSITION WAS CONSIDERING CALLING FOR A PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE BUNDESTAG ON THE ERW DECISION. (A CDU OFFICIAL SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THIS, STATING THAT THE PARTY WAS AWARE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR ERW AS CONTRASTED TO ITS PUBLIC POSTURE OF SILENCE AS WELL AS THE OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO ERW OF SOME SPD MEMBERS, E.G. BAHR. THE CDU WANTED TO CLEAR UP THIS DISCREPANCY BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG. VAN WELL ALSO THOUGHT ERW MIGHT BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE APRIL 13 BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT CERTAIN.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS THIS TELEGRAM TO NATO AS APPROPRIATE.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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